

Economic Growth Region 3 Summary

Indiana Economic Growth Region 3 consists of eleven counties in northeast Indiana. They include Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells and Whitley Counties. The region is bordered by Michigan to the north and Ohio to the east. The Fort Wayne Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is located in this region. Since January 2005 the Fort Wayne MSA includes Allen, Wells and Whitley Counties. Allen County is the most populous county in the region with over 47 percent of the regional population. Fort Wayne is the largest city in the region with nearly 33.8 percent of the region's population. Other major cities and towns are Marion, Huntington, New Haven, Wabash and Auburn.

Economic Growth Region 3's projected population for 2010 is 747,304, up less than 1 percent from the 2007 total. Regional population has grown with each Census report. From the 1990 to 2000 Census, nine of the eleven counties in the region had increasing population growth with DeKalb, LaGrange, Steuben and Noble Counties having increases of 14.0, 18.4, 21.0 and 22.2 percent, respectively. Only two counties in the region had decreasing population growth during the 1990 to 2000 time period and those decreases were minimal. Population projections to 2010 show increases for eight of the eleven counties in Economic Growth Region 3 while three of the eleven counties, including Allen County, having anticipated population decreases.

According to the Indiana Department of Education, 80 percent of all 2008 high school graduates in Economic Growth Region 3 are pursuing further education. Of that total, 71 percent are in four year degree programs, 18 percent in two year degree programs, and 11 percent in vocational training programs. Of the 482,050 individuals in Economic Growth Region 3 who are 25 years of age and older, 74.8 percent hold a high school diploma or above and 11.1 percent have a four year college degree or above.

For the year 2007 there were 341,498 jobs at industries within the region. The largest employing industry in the region was manufacturing with 25 percent of the total industry employment. Education and health services (includes private and government employment) was second at 20.7 percent. The industry showing the most growth in workers over a six year period (since 2001) was education and health services (including private and government employment) increasing by 7,837 workers or 12.4 percent. Professional and Business Services was second with a growth of 3,783 workers or 15.7 percent.

The all-industry average 2007 earnings for the region was \$34,779 per year versus Indiana's \$37,528. The region average wage was an increase of 14.1 percent over the 2001 region all-industry average wage. None of the region's 11 industry super-sectors (including government) had annual average earnings greater than the Indiana's averages. The region's manufacturing industry had the highest average earnings at \$45,323 per year, with financial services second at \$44,724; the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was leisure and hospitality services at \$11,636. The same industries statewide paid an average \$51,144, \$47,247, and \$15,024 per year, respectively.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

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